



# GREENSBORO URBAN AREA

## Transportation Advisory Committee

### TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Minutes of April 12, 2001**  
**10:00 a.m. Greensboro, NC**

#### **TAC MEMBERS PRESENT**

Sandy Carmany	TAC Chair, City Council
Mayor Keith Holliday	City Council
Robbie Perkins	City Council
Chairman Bob Landreth	Board of County Commissioners
Don Vaughan	City Council
Mary Rakestraw	Board of County Commissioners

#### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Jim Westmoreland	TCC Chair / GDOT	Tyler Meyer	GDOT
Veronica Dunlap	GDOT	Tom Martin	GDOT
Mike Cowan	NCDOT	Scott Rhine	PART
Scott Walshon	NCDOT Statewide Planning	Pat Strong	FHWA
Steve Walker	NCDOT	Craig McKinney	GDOT

Chair Carmany called the meeting to order.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

##### **Approval of Minutes of February 28, 2001 Meeting**

Jim Westmoreland moved the minutes of the February 28, 2001 meeting be approved as written, seconded by Bob Landreth. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion

##### **Approval of Draft MTP for State TIP Development Purposes**

Tyler Meyer presented the draft MTIP to the TAC, noting that the TCC had endorsed the plan at their earlier meeting. The actual MTIP will be ready for adoption in July, 2001. Don Vaughan moved approval of the item, seconded by Bob Landreth. The TAC voted unanimously in favor of the item.

### **Consider Resolution of Support for PART Funding**

Ms. Carmany reminded the Board of the briefing given at the last meeting by Interim Director for PART, Brent McKinney. The TAC was asked to support a tax on car rentals within a five county area. The counties involved being Guilford, Davidson, Forsyth, Alamance and Randolph. The tax will be a much-needed source of revenue for PART. The County Commissioners need to give their endorsement before the PART Board of Directors can impose this tax. Mayor Holliday stated that this tax would have little effect on the citizens of Guilford County, and he hoped that the Board would view this as a future revenue source.

Mayor Holliday made a motion in support of the item, seconded by Sandy Carmany. The item passed with Chairperson Carmany breaking the tie vote of 2 to 2.

### **BUSINESS ITEMS**

#### **NCDOT Noise Wall Briefing**

Steve Walker and Mike Cowan, both of the NCDOT, gave the briefing pertaining to the noise walls. Mr. Walker explained that the decision of noise wall placement is very complex and is made early in the environmental development stage. Noise impacted areas are then analyzed by a computerized program provided by the FHWA. After the information is put into a document, it is presented in a public hearing. After this date, any further development is not the responsibility of the State or Federal Government.

Don Vaughan expressed concern over the aesthetic value of the steel pile panel walls. Mr. Walker explained that the NCDOT looked at many different materials and styles and the pile panel was the most cost effective. Mr. Vaughan questioned why other communities such as Raleigh/Durham were allowed the brick noise walls. Mr. Cowan explained that the NCDOT's policy states that municipalities are allowed to pay the cost difference if they wish to use a more costly noise wall material. Mr. Cowan also informed the TAC that once Greensboro's population tops 200,000, the MPO would be eligible for approximately 3 million dollars of DA funds. This will occur either in the year 2002 or 2003.

Mr. Vaughan reiterated his feelings that the pile panel walls left a bad impression on North Carolina travelers, and hoped that something could be done to improve the aesthetics of the walls.

Mr. Cowan explained that placement of noise walls along the outer loop of the project has been a matter of public record since 1992. Any further development after the date of public knowledge becomes the responsibility of local government or private landowners.

Mike Cowan informed the TAC that the placement of the noise walls will be reexamined during the final stages of the project. If land use has changed or a request is made to remove a noise wall, they can be removed. Robbie Perkins suggested that the City Council act now to insure that Greensboro gets the brick noise walls. He expressed particular concern for the Groomtown and Lawndale neighborhoods.

Jim Westmoreland outlined the opportunities for use of DA funds along the I-40/I-85 section of interstate once Greensboro becomes a TMA. He also expressed his understanding of the way

Charlotte and Mecklenburg County have handled development after the Record of Decision. They have placed the burden on the developer to provide noise barriers for the property. Mr. Perkins suggested that the treed buffer should also be an effective alternative to future land developers.

The TAC expressed a desire for the NCDOT to consider doing some landscaping along the existing walls, perhaps by planting ivy. Mr. Vaughan expressed a desire that any new noise walls be placed on the TAC's and the County Commissioners' agenda, giving the Boards an opportunity to upgrade to the brick version.

## **OTHER ITEMS**

### **BOARD MEMBER UPDATE**

Mike Cowan informed the Committee that the NCDOT Board meetings had been changed and are now conflicting with the ability of some members to attend the TAC meetings. Mr. Westmoreland suggested the possibility of moving the TAC meetings and will provide some alternative meeting times at the next meeting.

Mr. Cowan also updated the Board members on the Guilford College Road Project. The historical property that was at issue is no longer a problem and the project is expected to move ahead. Mr. Cowan also told the Board that the I-40 Lighting Project had been delayed in order to complete the I-40 work without obstruction from the lights. Mr. Cowan updated the TAC on the progress of the I-40 project. The Merritt Drive Project had a water and sewer problem that has now been resolved and is expected to be completed in a timely manner.

Mayor Holliday expressed concern over the Wendover/Guilford College intersection as well as a negative article regarding a business that was left out of the loop. Mr. Cowan informed the TAC that the State is required to purchase more right-of-way, but is expected to be completed by fall of 2001.

## **TOWN REPORTS**

None.

## **STAFF INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

Jim Westmoreland informed the TAC that on April 25, 2001, Lindo Tippet, the new Secretary of the DOT, will be in Greensboro at 4:00p.m. at the Brian Park Enrichment Center for an invitation only briefing, followed by a 5:00 p.m. reception. Mr. Westmoreland also updated the TAC on the Depot Project, which is at this point 1.3 million dollars under budget. The Board of Transportation is expected to approve the contracts in early June.

Mr. Westmoreland encouraged the members to become excited about the Depot Project and the unique opportunity it brings to Greensboro. The fire department will use the site for training and perhaps some controlled burns. Mayor Holliday expressed concern over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade which uses the Depot as a staging area. Scott Rhine informed the members of the TAC that the Human Service Transportation Committee has put together a proposal for the Regional Human

Service and Non-emergency Medical Program. The hope is to have the plan in place by January 2002. Mr. Rhine also told the Board that PART has been approved to submit a grant request to the USEPA.

Additionally, the NCDOT is co-sponsoring with PART a Regional Participation Meeting, which will be a round table discussion regarding the long-range transportation planning process at the state level. The meeting is on April 24, 2001 between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. at the Partnership Office. All TAC members are encouraged to attend.

Mr. Rhine also introduced the approval of PART's new web page.

Jim Westmoreland informed the TAC of the public meetings regarding the City Bond Projects involving Friendly Avenue, Creekridge Road, Franklin Boulevard and Lake Jeanette Road. He requested that the members watch for the notices in the newspaper and attend the meetings.

The next TAC meeting will be on May 10, 2001.

Mary Rakestraw moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jim Westmoreland.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.